

A Study of Marriage Outlook in Pride and Prejudice

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Abstract

Jane Austen is an outstanding realist novelist in the UK whose works are mostly based on love and marriage. Her representative work, *Pride and Prejudice*, focuses on the marriage stories of several pairs of men and women, reflecting the life and thoughts of the middle class in the English towns of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. At present, domestic scholars and foreign scholars have studied the irony art, character analysis and marriage view in *Pride and Prejudice*, but there are few comparative studies on marriage relations. Therefore, this article will focus on the comparison research of marriage relations. This article is divided into six parts. The first part is the introduction part, which briefly introduces the life of Austen and the related background of *Pride and Prejudice*. The second part is the literature review, which briefly explains the references in this paper. The third part is about the interpretation of the two different marriage results of the happy and the tragedy in *Pride and Prejudice*. The fourth part analyzes the construction theory of four marriages in *Pride and Prejudice*, and supplies other marriage construction theories in real life. The fifth part puts forward some conditions needed for ideal marriage. The sixth part is the conclusion part of this article. Through the previous analysis, we can draw a conclusion that we should maintain rational thinking in the choice of marriage and perfect marriage should be based on love and material.

Keywords

Jane austen, pride and prejudice, marriage view, ideal marriage.

1. Introduction

1.1. A Brief Introduction to Jan Austen's Life

Jane Austen was born in 1775 and died in 1817. Austen's life experience is relatively simple. Her father is a knowledgeable pastor and her mother is from a wealthier family and has a certain cultural accomplishment. She has a total of eight brothers and sisters. Although Austen did not go to a regular school, the family's excellent conditions and reading environment offered her self-study conditions and cultivated her interest in writing. She started writing at the age of thirteen or fourteen years old, showing her talent in language expression. In 1800, her father retired and her family moved to Bath which Austen did not like. It is said that she had suffered from depression during the time of living in Bath. Here, Austen rejected a marriage proposal from a young man who would inherit a large amount of property because she did not love him. After living for four years or so, his father died in the place, so Austen and her mother and sister moved to Southampton and then moved to Jordan in 1809. At the beginning of 1816, she was seriously ill and her body became increasingly weak. She was sent to Winchester for treatment in May 1817, but the treatment was ineffective. Unfortunately She died in her sister's arms on July 18 of the same year. She was unmarried for the rest of her life since she rejected the only one marriage proposal and was buried in Winchester Cathedral.

1.2. The Social Background of Pride and Prejudice

The novel *Pride and Prejudice* is based on the English countryside at the end of the 18th century. During this period, Britain was in a period of vigorous industrial revolution, and the economy was experiencing a transition from a feudal agricultural economy to a capitalist market economy. Although some achievements have been made in industry and commerce, the rural economy is still the mainstay of the British economy. The development of rural industry is one of the main characteristics of economic development during this period. With the development of the rural economy, a large number of nostalgic classes have been emerged. Certainly, the Bennett family in *Pride and Prejudice* is a typical representative.

1.3. The Importance and Influence of Pride and Prejudice

During 1775 to 1817, British novels are in a transitional period. In the first half of the eighteenth century, the British literary world emerged four masters of realism novels—Fielding, Richard, Stern, and Smollett. But in the 1770s, these people have already passed away and then it come one after another, which is a sentimental novel represented by *Fanny Benny* and a Gothic legend represented by *Lady Radcliffe*. These works were all the rage at the time, but because of the obvious sentimental and magical feature, they appeared pale and weak, and the literary achievements were not high. In this case, Jane Austen, from 1811 to 1818, published *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Manor* (1814), *Emma*(1815), *Northanger Abbey* (1818), *Persuasion* (1818), a total of six novels. These novels, with their rational light, illuminate the sinister creations of sentimental novels and Gothic novels, and make them lose their place of belonging, thus clearing the way for the climax of the British 1930s realist novels. *Pride and Prejudice* is the opposite of the socially popular sentimental novels. It uses daily life as a material to vividly reflect the British township life in the conservative and occluded state from the late 18th century to the early 19th century. This social-style novel not only attracted a large number of readers at the time, but still gives readers a unique artistic enjoyment at now.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Foreign Studies on Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen describes the daily life of the middle class with humorous and vivid strokes, and draws a quiet and comfortable picture of life of small and medium-sized landlords and pastors. Limited by her living environment, the theme of Jane Austen's work is mainly about love and marriage. Therefore, most of Austen's works describe some trivial matters of life. In the era of Austen, finding a good marriage partner is not only a big event for women, but also the only goal in their lives. Therefore, Austen's works are almost all around love and marriage. In her work, Austen not only describes the marriage model that prevailed in society at the time—marriage for money or sex, but also proposed the ideal marriage model she had in the early days—with property and love as a guarantee, such as the marriage of the heroine Darcy and Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*.

However, in the age of Austen, her work was not appreciated by other persons.

It was not until the end of the nineteenth century that Jane Austen's work was widely read. But her readers are also limited to nobles, gentlemen, and some literati with appreciation.

In 1870, Jane Austen's nephew, Austen-Leigh, James Edward, published *A Memoir of Jane Austen*. This book made the British public aware of this gentle and amiable "Jane Auntie", and the word "Jane fans" came into being. After the publication of *A Memoir of Jane Austen*, comments on her work have also increased. Since then, relevant research about her has officially begun.

Foreign studies on *Pride and Prejudice* are relatively early. Foreign studies on Jane Austen can be divided into three stages. The first is the traditional research stage of the 19th century. When Austen was alive, there were less than 20 articles on her topical review, but her work was praised by people with insights at the time. In his diary, Scott expressed his appreciation for *Pride and Prejudice*. In the article "About Austen", Toba Bakolai thinks that Jane Austen is Shakespeare on the prose type. In his essay "Jane Austen's Novel", Joe Henry also pays attention to the simplicity of Austen's writing art and the dramatic techniques of shaping characters. They also made general comments on the perspective of morality or entertainment, mostly in the article. In addition, there are many people who devalue the works of Austen. Wordsworth, Mrs. Browning and Mark Twain insisted on the male-centered intrinsic attitude against the rationalism in Austen's works and the delicate description of women's psychology. Xia Browning accused Austen's work of being too bland and without passion. Therefore, the rich content of Austen's works during this period is still far from being excavated.

The second stage is the modern stage of research from the end of the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century. In the twentieth century, with the emergence of new concepts of philosophy, sociology, psychology, and literature, and various methods and perspectives for interpreting the meaning of Austen's texts, the rich content contained in Austen's literary and artistic heritage gradually evolved, and got her position in the history of literature and fiction.

The third stage is the contemporary research stage from the mid-20th century to the present. At this stage, Austen's novels were fully discussed and explored. In 1954, British contemporary novelist Walter Allen considered Austen to be a revolutionary pure novelist in his article *Jane Austen*. At the same time, he also acknowledged that the theme of Austen's works has the limitations of moral education. In 1979, Harding's article "Sketching Characters and Cartoon Characters in Austen's Works" pointed out that Austen had the intention of comicizing characters, and used exaggerated techniques to ironically ridicule the personality defects. There are many other studies besides this. This article only uses these two examples to illustrate. And other studies will not be discussed one by one.

2.2. Domestic Studies on *Pride and Prejudice*

Since the 1980s, Jane Austen's research has received increasing attention in China, and the research theory has become more diversified and has a broad vision. Domestic research on Jane Austen has gone through three stages.

The first stage is the rise of Austen's research in the 1980s. Before the 1980s, many critics criticized Austen for her narrow life and trivial subject matter. Therefore, Austen has not received the attention of domestic scholars. Ms. Zhu Hong is a scholar who paid much attention to Austen earlier in China. In 1982, she published "Arrogance and prejudice against Austen" in "Reading" magazine, which reconciled Austen's cold reception in China and believed that Austen's novel charm can withstand the test of art. She believes that Austen's research should be given new play in the new generation of critics. Since then, Chinese scholars have begun to pay attention to Austen.

The second stage is the deepening of Austen's research in the 1990s. In the 1990s, Austen's research developed rapidly in China, and more than forty papers were published throughout the 1990s. Scholars generally believe that Austen is the first novelist to depict ordinary everyday life. She portrays the character and inner conflict accurately and delicately, which is incomparable to other novelists. At this stage, Austen's research is no longer limited to the theme of the work, the character image, the social significance, etc., and begins to explore Austen's thought and artistic value from different angles. In the 1990s, there was a trend of retranslation of Austen's novels. The emergence of multiple versions was accompanied by a comparative study of different versions.

The third stage is the diversified development of Austen's research in recent years. In recent years, the popularity of Austen's research has not diminished. The diversification of research theories and the multiple perspectives of research horizons are a prominent feature of Austen's research during this period. It mainly includes multi-dimensional research from the perspectives of marriage, emotional attitudes, feminism, language arts, and comparative studies.

3. Two Different Marriage Patterns in Pride and Prejudice

3.1. Happy Marriage Pattern in Pride and Prejudice

In *Pride and Prejudice*, the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy is undoubtedly happy, and it is also the ideal marriage for the author Jane Austen. Jane and Bentley's marriage is also envied. Let's analyze the marriage characteristics between the two marriages.

3.1.1. Happy Marriage of Elizabeth and Mr.Darcy

The love of Elizabeth and Darcy has always been throughout the novel. Elizabeth is intelligent and independent, and has a rational consideration of marriage. In her view, a marriage without an emotional foundation is unhappy. The process of Elizabeth's search for true love in the novel reflects the true value of marriage. Elizabeth is self-respecting and self-love, and she has her own opinions. She is brave in pursuing her own happiness, and ultimately she is happy, and she also has a lot of property. This kind of marriage is perfect, and it is also the concept of marriage advocated by the author Austen.

At first, Elizabeth directly refused Collins's proposal to pay too much attention to "material", and then alienated Wickham, who blindly pursued "sexual desire", and eventually threw out the red line of marriage to Darcy. When dealing with their marriage, Austen designed a series of emotional conflicts for them. On the one hand, Elizabeth wants to overcome his own subjective prejudice. On the other hand, Darcy needs to overcome his arrogant attitude. They understand each other's meaning of love, coordinate subjective conflicts, and finally marry with sweet love and considerable wealth. The marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy brings a harmonious beauty to the reader.

3.1.2. Happy Marriage of Jane and Mr.Bingley

Jane and Bentley's marriage is a perfect marriage in the novel. Jane is beautiful and generous. She is a typical lady. Bentley is graceful. He is a gentleman with property and status. This marriage is what the author likes, but compared to the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy, this marriage is still lacking.

The author made Jane and Bentley to experience all kinds of twists and turns, and let them taste the pain and depression of the world. Finally, with the help of Darcy and Elizabeth, Jane and Bentley had lovers to become a genus. The various factors in this marriage are worthy of our analysis. On the one hand, it is undeniable that this marriage is based on love. Jane and Bentley are attracted to each other for the first time, but at first they are attracted to each other by morality. It is unlikely Elizabeth and Darcy, whose marriage based on mutual understanding, is only the mutual attraction of two ethical good people. So after being hindered, they did not strive to fight for it. In this respect, their love is actually fragile.

On the other hand, their marriage did not completely rule out the "property" factor. Bentley was a gentleman with rich property, and Jane knew this before Jane firstly saw him. Jane, a propertyless daughter of a middle-class family, naturally understands the importance of property in her own life, so the goodwill of the first meeting cannot exclude Bentley's "property" factor. Because Bentley has rich property and does not need to obtain "property" through marriage, he can have the capital to choose a woman without property as her wife. From this perspective, Jane and Bentley's marriage is a marriage model based on love and property

security. They represent the marriage mode in which some lucky people in the society have a sense of responsibility and morality, which is appreciated by the author.

3.2. Tragic Marriage Pattern in Pride and Prejudice

Pride and Prejudice not only describes happy marriages but also depicts unfortunate marriages. If the two pairs of marriages analyzed above are happy marriages, then we will analyze the two pairs of painful and tragic marriages in Pride and Prejudice.

3.2.1. Tragic Marriage of Charlotte and Mr.Collins

The marriage between Charlotte and Collins has long been considered a type of ridicule by Austen. Charlotte is a friend of Elizabeth and a daughter of a knight, with many brothers and sisters at home. When she met Collins in the book, she was already a 27-year-old young woman. She had no property and was flat, but Elizabeth said she was a smart woman who had her own ideas and treated others fairly and objectively. Such a wise woman finally chose Collins as a lifelong companion who was neither sensible nor likable. This is a typical marriage model in the Austen's era. The factors that make up this marriage are mainly "property", a pastor with property and social status, and a knight's daughter with no property. The most critical factor in their marriage is not love but "property". Collins had the capital of marriage because of certain property, so he easily won the marriage, and Charlotte promised his proposal because Collins had certain property. At the time of the British patriarchal system, the status of women was lower than that of men, and women could not inherit the property of the family. They can only hope to find a husband with a better economic situation through marriage, in order to ensure future life. Therefore, marriage is the only way for Charlotte to find a good way for herself. Although her marriage has no love, she can bring her a life guarantee that will not be hungry and frozen. From the perspective of a middle-class lady who had no property at the time, we could understand her choice.

3.2.2. Tragic Marriage of Lydia and Mr.Wickham

If the author makes a quiet sarcasm about the marriage of Charlotte and Collins, then it is a naked criticism for the marriage of Lydia and Wickham . Lydia first ran away with Wickham, which was looked down upon by the people of the time and made Elizabeth's family shameful. Then Darcy tried to take care of the faces of both of them, and in order not to let things go, Darcy helped Wickham pay off his debts and gave Wickham a sum of money for him to marry Lydia. The marriage between Lydia and Wickham is based on passion, sensuality and money. As a woman who has no property but is superficial and ignorant and admires vanity, Lidia feels that elopement is a different thing. Wickham went to elope because of "sexuality" and got married for "money". Austen is critical of their marriage, and Austen believes that such a marriage is not happy.

4. Marriage Construction Theory

4.1. Like-Attracts-Like Theory

4.1.1. The Perfect Combination of Elizabeth and Mr.Darcy

Among all the female characters shaped by Austen, Elizabeth is her favorite female character. Austen once wrote in the letter: "I admit that she is the cutest character in literature, and if who doesn't like her, I can't agree." (2009:137) This sentence clearly shows Austen's degree of love to Elizabeth. In Austen's view, Elizabeth is better than any heroine in any literary work. Through the ending of Elizabeth's marriage, Austen portrayed her ideal marriage model.

Elizabeth and Darcy met for the first time at a ball. The first time they met, Darcy offended her because he refused to dance with Elizabeth. Therefore, Elizabeth's first impression of him was arrogance and annoyance. At the beginning of the novel, Elizabeth was biased against Darcy because of his arrogant performance. Therefore, when others were flattering Darcy, she was

very cold to Darcy, and Elizabeth's special attitude caused Darcy's attention. Gradually, Darcy really understood Elizabeth and was attracted to her. Although Elizabeth's relatives were mostly vulgar, but ultimately could not stop Darcy's love for Elizabeth, so Darcy proposed to her. His heart is full of thought that with his noble social status and rich property, Elizabeth will promise his proposal. But Elizabeth was annoyed by his arrogant attitude and refused him without hesitation.

After the marriage proposal was rejected by Elizabeth, Darcy realized his mistake and he began to change himself. He worked hard to eliminate prejudice against members of the Elizabeth family. And after the elopement scandal of Elizabeth's sister Lydia and Wickham, Darcy generously and unselfishly helped, finally resolving the crisis and saving the dignity of the Elizabeth's family. Everything he did finally changed Elizabeth's view of him. And Elizabeth knew that Wickham was a big liar. She learned that she mistakenly blamed Darcy, and after Darcy paid for her, she began to accept Darcy. So when Darcy asked her to marry her again, she accepted it with pleasure.

The marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy follows a pattern from like-attracts-like. Marriage can last for a long time only based on mutual attraction and likeness. This is the marriage relationship advocated by Jane Austen.

4.1.2. The Love of Jane and Mr.Bingley

Jane is the eldest daughter of Bennett's family, she is very beautiful. She has many virtues: she is quiet and patient, has the ideal of pursuing happiness, and hopes that others are as happy as her, treating life and others from a positive perspective. After her first encounter with Bentley at the dance at Netherfield, she expressed her admiration for him to her sister Elizabeth: "He is a typical good young man", "having insight, good temper, lively, I have never seen behave like this kind of demeanor! - So dignified, so educated!" (2000:14) Bentley's first impression of Jane is also very good. When he firstly saw Jane, he described her as "a beautiful stunner" that "he had never seen before", (2000:11) and at the same time, she had a good character, so Bentley was deeply attracted to her and showed his strong feelings for her. However, Jane is not good at expressing herself, her character is restrained and implicit, and she never reveals her emotions. This also caused Darcy's misunderstanding. As a result, Darcy thought that Jane did not like Bentley and persuaded Bentley to leave Jane. Bentley did not express his love and admiration for her, so she fell into inferiority and pain, and did not actively pursue her own happiness.

Finally, with the help of Darcy and Elizabeth, Jane and Bentley finally overcome all kinds of difficulties and entered the palace of marriage. Jane and Bingley's marriage model is very ideal; their marriage is basically built on mutual admiration. The two of them are similar in temperament, understand each other, and have money to be a solid backing for their marriage. Their marriage is very happy. However, compared with the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy, the love between Jane and Bingley is too dull and too much of a matter of course, the basis of love between them is far less than the unforgettable between Elizabeth and Darcy. So their marriage is too idealistic and fragile.

4.2. Resource Exchange Theory

4.2.1. Exchange of Interests Between Charlotte and Mr.Collins

The marriage between Charlotte and Collins is not based on love or appearance, but on the basis of reason and property. Their marriage is very realistic. Charlotte is the eldest daughter of Sir William Lucas. Her appearance is not attractive, but she is very brainy and has her own realistic views on marriage. For her, marriage is just a means of giving her a sense of financial security. In the eighteenth century in the United Kingdom, women were considered to be weak and ignorant, and they were male accessories and social status was low. Therefore, the only way for women to gain financial security and improve their social status is to marry a rich person.

Charlotte is no longer young. She has neither a high social status nor a large amount of property. While Collins is stupid, boring, and annoying, he is willing to propose to her. That is enough. Because he thinks for a young woman who is well educated and has no property, such a marriage can provide them with a comfortable and decent life. Charlotte can't escape this ending. In the face of cruel social reality, she had to give in.

In Collins's view, marriage is just a deal and has nothing to do with love. Even his idea of getting married is not because of his own needs, but because Mrs. Catherine strongly recommends that he should have a wife. In his mind, chasing power is only the most important thing. Therefore, after Elizabeth refused his proposal, he not only did not feel the slightest frustration, but under the hint of the clever Charlotte, the next morning, he hurriedly proposed to Charlotte and received the Charlotte family's hospitality. Obviously, Collins didn't care about who to marry, and not to care if he loved this person.

Their marriage is very realistic, they just exchange things what they need, and there is no love. Therefore, it is a tragic marriage, and it is not a long-term one.

4.2.2. Beautiful Mutual Attraction of Lydia and Mr. Wickham

In the novel, the marriage of Lydia and Wickham is the most absurd and least optimistic. Both of them are morally devastated, only knowing the pursuit of lustful love and material enjoyment. Their marriage is superficial and there is no love at all.

Their marriage has no love as the basis, no money to protect life, and some just because of the sexual impulses generated by the attractive appearance of each other. The marriage between Lydia and Wickham is based on lust and appearance. Once the youthful appearance disappears with the passage of time, the relationship between them will fade. As the novel says, Lydia became a frequent visitor to two sisters' homes whenever Wickham went out to have fun. As time goes by, the passion of their marriage will soon cool down, and such a marriage is obviously not happy.

In their marriage, which is not favored by everyone, strong lust plays a leading role. However, when the lust fades, their marriage is only the indifference between the two. Such marriage, which is neither love nor money but only lust, can only bring endless suffering to both sides.

4.3. Marriage Construction Theories in Real Life

In our real life, in addition to the Like-Attracts-Like and Resource Exchange marriage modes mentioned above, there is also a moving marriage model. The moving marriage and love mode refers to, for example, a man who likes a woman or a woman who likes a man, and then begins to pursue crazy. If the person being pursued at this time is just in the emotional blank period, he is touched by the pursuit of the pursuer and the persuasion of the friends around him, and it is very likely that he will agree to the request of the pursuer.

We often see various forms of public marriage or love that appear in our daily lives. This phenomenon is actually a moving love or marriage model. It is actually an irrational act to promise to be with the other person or to marry just because of the touch. Love and marriage can't come together just because they are moved. The basis of love and marriage is to understand each other and really like each other. If two people come together just because of the moment, after the passage of time, when the touch and passion began to fade, then there will be many problems between the two.

Moreover, the relationship between male and female in a moving marriage or in love is also unequal. The one who pays more will undoubtedly have more moral capital, then he will appear to be more intensive. He feels that he should be treated well because he pays so much. If a relationship is not based on equality, it is doomed to be unsustainable.

Therefore, this kind of moving love and marriage in real life deserves our vigilance. Don't regret life for a moment's touch!

5. The Possibility of an Ideal Marriage Reflected in Pride and Prejudice

5.1. Necessary Foundation

The importance of money in marriage is important. This criterion applies not only to the 18th century English marriage depicted in *Pride and Prejudice*, but also to modern marriage. In *Pride and Prejudice*, the status of property in marriage is reflected everywhere. Bentley “inherited a legacy of nearly 100,000 pounds from his father” (2000:15), Darcy had “10,000 pounds of income a year” (2000:10), their rich property is one of the reasons that make them popular. For those who don’t have property, marriage is a bit rough and rugged. Charlotte had no property so that to marry Collins who she did not love. Jane and Elizabeth were also obstructed in the pursuit of marriage because they had no property.

Love is the foundation of marriage. Jane Austen’s point of view is that no love in marriage is unhappy. If the two have no emotional foundation, don’t marry. Although marriage is closely related to social status and property and so on, marriage can not be determined entirely by social status, property, etc. In a happy love, the husband and wife should respect each other and sincerely love each other. At the same time, the author asserts that Charlotte’s marriage will not be happy, because there is no love between Charlotte and Collins, only the exchange of interests. On the issue of the combination of Jane and Bentley, Austen gave full affirmation. The two of them became the happiest people. Although they experienced rough times, they eventually became dependents. This love-based marriage is also advocated by the author Jane Austen.

Wealth is the guarantee of marriage. Austen believes that a comfortable and pleasant marriage must be based on rich property. Although love is necessary, it is not unique. In the 19th century Britain, the marriage recognized by the public was guaranteed by material. Women cannot grasp their own destiny, and relying solely on the marriage of love can not guarantee the life after marriage. Therefore, many women will consider property in marriage, and Jane is no exception. Jane first met Bentley at the Netherfield ball and said: “He is a typical good young man”, “having insight, good temper, lively, I have never seen behave like this kind of demeanor! - So dignified, so educated!” (2000:14) to Elizabeth. Jane’s first impression of Bentley is hardly said to have been unaffected by Bentley’s wealth. If only because of her pure love for Bentley, without Bentley’s rich wealth as a guarantee, Jane did not have the courage to promise Bentley’s proposal. In the end, she and Bentley got married and lived happily together.

5.2. Rational Attitude

Lydia is the youngest daughter of Bennett’s family. She is the favorite of her mother, Mrs. Bennett, but she is ignorant, lazy, and likes vanity. She is a superficial woman who treats married out as the only goal in life. And she is to be willing to hook up officers and inquire about all kinds of gossip. She doesn’t know what a profound love is. Her pursuit of marriage is only a moment of joy and vanity satisfaction, without any rational thinking. She just does things with her inner desires. As soon as she came to the officer, she went to hook up. So it is not difficult to understand why she fell in love at Wickham, a young and handsome and graceful officer. Although it can’t be denied that love at first sight is love, even if there is love, it is more about sensuality and vanity. Her so-called love is nothing but an impulse and passion without rational thinking. Such love is not worthy of being promoted.

Wickham looks very gentleman, but it is actually a downright hypocrite. He was the son of Darcy’s housekeeper and was deeply loved by Darcy’s father. Darcy’s father provided him with a good education, and in his will asked Darcy to arrange a pastor’s work for him. However, Wickham was squandered and wasted this good opportunity. Later, he even thought about using marriage to acquire property and gain a certain social status. For this purpose, he first tried to seduce Darcy’s sister who had 3,000 pounds of property to run away with him. Later, Wickham seduce Miss Jin because she had 10,000 pounds of property. When he met Elizabeth,

he showed a good impression on Elizabeth, but Elizabeth, as a lady without property, was definitely not his marriage goal, and Lydia, who had no property, also was not. The reason why Wickham eloped with Lydia is because he needs a woman to help him stay away from loneliness on the road to escaping debt. So even after they ran away, he didn't plan to marry Lydia. Finally, Darcy helped him pay off his debts and gave him a sum of money. Until then, he finally decided to marry Lydia.

The marriage of Wickham and Lydia is totally without rational thinking and judgment. Their marriage is not based on love, but on passion. Life needs to go slowly, and only passion is not enough. A good marriage requires not only love, material wealth, but also calm thinking and judgment; otherwise it will be as long as the marriage of Lydia and Wickham.

6. Conclusion

In short, love and marriage are eternal topics in human society. Jane Austen criticized the marriage concept of the masses at that age through the marriage of several major characters in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, and also proposed the ideal marriage concept. Jane Austen believes that the ideal marriage is based on love and is protected by wealth. Such a concept of marriage is not only applicable in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, but also has important implications for women who face the two puzzles of love and money in marriage life in today's society. Through this novel, we learned how to deal with the relationship between love, money and lust in marriage.

First, from Jane Austen's novels we know that money in marriage is not primary. Some women in our modern society still seem to be at a loss when faced with the choice of love and money. In the *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth's rejection of Darcy's first proposal for marriage has given a clear answer. When faced with the choice of love and money, women should regard love as the primary factor in marriage. Learn choosing marriage from Elizabeth to pursue true love.

Second, love is not supreme. Many young people have a love-first view, and believe that when love is mixed with other factors, it will become no longer pure. However, the ending of many love-only marriages is not perfect. Therefore, Austen would think that marriage without considering money is stupid. In the novel, Austen made a lot of descriptions on Darcy's rich property. It can be seen that the author is not exclusive to the rich property, and even agrees. This gives modern women a lot of inspiration when making marriage choices and lets them know that marriage should not only consider the factor of love, other factors, such as money should also be considered. Money is the guarantee of marriage. This concept of marriage has a strong practical significance in today's society. On the basis of love, and then consider money, then people's marital satisfaction will be greatly improved.

Third, the marriage with only sexual desires is unlikely to last long and is unhappy, just like Lydia and Wickham.

When we are considering the issue of marriage, we are making choices in the trade-offs between the three factors mentioned above. The marriage values expressed by Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice* are worthy of reference by modern women, which provides a favorable theoretical guarantee for many women to obtain a happy marriage.

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